

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Please cancel claims 6 and 7.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

a housing having interrupting chambers;

a cover capable of closing the housing; and

externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing; each interrupting chamber having disposed therein an arc quenching device and a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,

the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, ~~wherein the guide and retaining elements include stack guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the arc splitter stack and plate guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the cooling plate~~

wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers, first retaining elements of the cover, and pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing, the inner walls being configured to support outer legs of the arc quenching device and the first retaining elements configured to further hold down the arc quenching device.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements includes arc splitter guide and retaining elements and cooling plate guide and retaining elements, the arc splitter guide and retaining elements being adjacent to the guide and cooling plate retaining elements in a direction of the terminal contacts.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

- a housing having interrupting chambers ~~and housing guide and retaining elements;~~
- a cover capable of closing the housing ~~and having cover guide and retaining elements; and~~
- externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;
- a stationary switching contact located in each interrupting chamber, the stationary switching contact cooperating with a movable switching contact; ~~and~~

- an arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber, the arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, ~~the housing guide and retaining elements and the cover guide and retaining elements being configured to retain the arc quenching device and including both cooling plate guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the cooling plate and arc splitter stack retaining elements configured to guide and retain the arc splitter stack~~

wherein the housing and cover include:

cooling plate guide and retaining elements comprising inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers, first retaining elements of the cover and pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing; and

arc splitter stack guide and retaining elements comprising inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chamber and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An electrical switching device comprising:

- a housing having interrupting chambers;
- a cover capable of closing the housing; and

externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing; each interrupting chamber having disposed therein an arc quenching device and a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,

the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate; wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover, the pocket-like second retaining elements configured to secure the arc quenching device via a frictional and/or form-locking connection, and, when the cover is mounted, the inner walls of the housing being positioned to support the arc quenching device between the inner walls.